

REPORT, &c.

THE WEEKLY COMMITTEE of DIRECTORS of the
TOWN'S HOSPITAL, consider it their duty to
REPORT to the QUARTERLY MEETING of
DIRECTORS, to be held on 15th May next,
as follows:—

At a pro re nata Meeting, held on the 28th day of February last, within Hutcheson's Hospital, the Directors were informed that Spasmodic Cholera had appeared with great virulence among the inmates of the Hospital, and the progress of the disease, as well as the proceedings of the Committee up to that date, were reported to the Directors.* At that date, *twenty-one* persons had been seized with sudden illness—of whom *one* was reported dead of Apoplexy, *one* dead of Ileus, and *seven* dead of Cholera. *Four* were reported recovered, and *eight* remained under treatment for Cholera—of whom *five* died subsequently, and *three* recovered. The disease continued to prevail until the 9th March, when its ravages were stayed, only *two* cases of Cholera having occurred after that date; *one* on the 18th, and another on the 19th March, after which no cases of actual Cholera appeared within the Hospital, although the tendency to disease of the bowels, continued for some weeks to require a rigid surveillance of the inmates; and frequent visitations daily by Medical attendants were found necessary, to check the ineipient symptoms. After the 21 cases formerly reported, 46 additional cases occurred, making a total of 67 within the Hospital, including two hired nurses.

Of whom there died of Cholera,	-	-	-	42
of Apoplexy,	-	-	-	1
of Ileus,	-	-	-	1
of old age, and debility after Cholera,	-	-	-	1
of inflammation of the Brain after Cholera,	-	-	-	1
				46
And there recovered,	-	-	-	21
				67

Of those who died, 15 were lunatics, and 8 lunatics recovered, Total	23
12 fatuous, 7 fatuous do.	19
12 aged, 0 aged do.	12
3 debilitated, 3 debilitated do.	6
4 irregular habits 3 irregular habits do.	7
<hr/> 46	<hr/> 21
	67
There died 20 Males, and 26 females, two nurses included,	- 46
Recovered 11 do. 10 do. - - - - -	21
<hr/> 31	<hr/> 36
	67

It appears that of *eight* persons who became ill on the 26th of February, *seven recovered*; on the 27th, 28th, and 29th February, *nine* became ill, *seven died*, and *two recovered* of the *nine*; and of the *twenty-six* cases that occurred on and after 2d March, *twenty-three died*, and only *three recovered*—the disease thus appearing to have assumed a more deadly form towards its conclusion.

It having been suggested to the Committee by Dr Auchencloss, Surgeon to the Hospital, and Mr Marshall, D.I. II. that the removal of as many as possible of the inmates to another locality, might be attended with advantage; and the use of the Dépôt, or Hospital, in the Old Wynd, then unoccupied, having been offered by the Committee of the Board of Health on the 7th March; the weekly Committee unanimously resolved to adopt the suggestion of the Medical gentlemen, and to accept the kind offer of the Board of Health, (which rendered any other negotiation for accommodation unnecessary,) and they determined to remove instantly as many persons as the Wynd Hospital could properly accommodate—the selection of individuals most proper to be removed, being left to Dr Auchencloss and Mr Marshall. On the following day *forty-one* females were accordingly removed; and continued there in good health until the 28th of March, when, at the request of the Board of Health, they were returned to the Town's Hospital, that the Hospital in the Wynd, might be made available to the Board as a house of Refuge.

As it has pleased providence to restore the Town's Hospital to its ordinary freedom from contagious disease, the weekly Committee considered it proper to renew their enquiries into every circumstance that could be suspected as contributing in any degree to the introduction of *Cholera*, for which purpose they met within the Hospital, on Monday, 30th April last.* Their attention was first directed to the LOCALITY of the Hospital, and then to its *particular circumstances*. And it does appear to the Committee that (whatever might have been the inducements to make choice of a part of "the Old Green," as the site for an Hospital, a century ago,) it is now one of the least eligible situations that could be selected for such an important

* Present, the Preceptor, Messrs Thomas Stevenson, Alexander Pollock, John Ronald, William Barr, William Thomson, and the Superintendent.

purpose. It lies low, and damp, exposed to a moist atmosphere, and from its proximity to the river, is subjected to frequent inundations from the high floods of Winter, Spring, and Autumn. The injurious effects of which are not limited to the mere temporary inconvenience of removing the occupants of Cells, and ground floors, to upper apartments, but also operate with insalubrious influence over the whole establishment for many weeks after the inundations have subsided. The low Cells having their floors considerably under the level of the front building, are the first to exhibit the rising of the waters, and the last to be freed from them, and are consequently the most unsuitable places for accommodating that unfortunate class, whose destiny it is, to become their inmates—a class, whose comforts should, if possible, be more carefully provided for, than if they were possessed of reason to control their actions. During the 8th and 9th days of February, 1831, the water had attained a height of *upwards of three feet* in the Cells; which rendered it necessary to move the very cows and pigs up stairs, and it was long ere the lower apartments were restored to their proper degree of comfort. But during the past Winter, the Hospital *was not* subjected to any inundation, consequently no malarious influence, proceeding from *such a cause*, could have in any degree, operated on the health of the inmates.

The Committee farther ascertained that the dunghill had not been so regularly removed at the end of every *four weeks*, as is required by the conditions of sale, but they do not find that the accumulation at the date immediately preceding the appearance of Cholera, was greater than what has frequently occurred at seasons when the sun's rays act with more powerful influence, and yet no bad effects had ever resulted to the health of the inmates on such occasions. The purchaser has, since February, been obliged to adhere rigidly to the terms of his bargain.

It may be proper also to state that on the 9th March, the notice of the Committee was called, in an especial manner, to a circumstance that occurred on the 15th February, “the dead body of Mary Ann Watson was received into the Hospital for interment; she had taken suddenly ill, and was carried to the Dépôt, in the High Street, where she expired in a few minutes.” Such is the entry on the Hospital record—that body remained to be claimed, from 11 A. M. of the 15th, until 3 P. M. of the 16th February, (*during which time it was seen by many of the Hospital inmates,*) and at the latter hour it was interred. Mr M'Tear, district Surgeon, had applied personally to procure the admission of the body into the Hospital, which was objected to by Mr Hill, on account of the suspicions attaching to a sudden death, after Cholera had been recognized within the City. But the assurances of Mr M'Tear that the death was not caused by Cholera, and his granting a written Certificate to that effect, removed the objections of the Superintendent, and the body was thus admitted. Mr Robert Muir, one of the Hospital inmates, who became very serviceable in assisting the Medical

attendants on cases of Cholera, within the Hospital, had seen this body, and subsequently observed certain appearances on the bodies of persons dead of Cholera, resembling those on the corpse of Mary Ann Watson, which, when coupled with the description given by one of the Glasgow Newspapers on the 15th February, of the symptoms she exhibited before death, does certainly increase the suspicions that Cholera was her disease.

The Committee next proceeded to investigate the state of the various departments of the Hospital, as it existed on the 22d February, with regard to the number of beds and occupants of beds, *at that date*, and their respective numbers *now*, and the following is the result of a most careful investigation:—

	B. P.		Total.			B. P.		Total.	
	B.	P.	B.	P.		B.	P.	B.	P.
In the six Westmost cells there were, on the 22d February,	8	8			and there are now	5	5		
In the mid range of cells, 12 occupied	20	28			.....	3	3		
In the upper cells, 11 in number,	17	23	45	59	.....	17	15	25	23
The Westmost cells have no fire-places. The mid cells have all fire-places, excepting four, but they are heated by a flue, entering cell No. 8. There are five low cells in the East wing, never occupied by inmates, but in cases of great emergency; their floor is lower than the other cells; they were, and are, filled with potatoes and lumber.									
The West wing, back building, up one stair,	28	31			.....	28	29		
The centre, do. do.	12	15			.....	12	13		
The West wing, do. two stairs	9	10			.....	9	8		
The Centre, do. do.	18	20			.....	18	19		
The East Wing, do. do.	15	16			.....	15	16		
The Centre garrets, do.	10	10			.....	8	8		
The Eastmost garrets, do.	9	9	101	111	.....	9	14	99	107
Total in back building			146	170	.....			124	130
The West building, or new house, low ward,	14	1			.....	8	9		
The do. upper ward,	10	14	24	31	.....			8	9
East small house, formerly the wright's shop,					.....	4	4	4	4
Front house, upper floor,	42	63			.....	49	67		
Do. second floor down,	57	87			.....	58	72		
Do. one stair up,	27	44			.....	34	47		
Do. large hall,					.....	14	10		
Do. oakum room,			126	194	Total in front house,	6	7	161	203
Males, 122 } 395			296	395	Males, 102 }	346		297	346
Females, 273 }					Females, 244 }				

It thus appears that there were, on the 22d February, 296 beds, occupied by 395 persons, (or one third of the beds contained two persons in each,) *one hundred and twenty-two* were *males*, and *two hundred and seventy-three females*; and that there are now 297 beds, occupied by 346 persons; of whom, *one hundred and two* are *males*, and *two hundred and forty-four females*. It does not seem that there was, in any one department, more than the usual healthy complement of persons, with the exception of cells No. 5 and 6, in the middle range of low cells, in one of which there were *three* beds, containing *six* persons *during the night*; and in the other, *three* beds, containing *five* persons. And although the first cases of Cholera did occur in these two cells, yet, on the same day, other *two* cases occurred in the upper floor or attics of the centre front building, in one of the largest wards of the Hospital.

The whole cells occupied by inmates on the ground floor, were *twenty* in number, in *eleven* of them eighteen cases of Cholera occurred, of which *nine* only died, and, in the other nine cells, no cases occurred; but, in the large ward of the upper floor of the front building, already referred to, *seven* took Cholera, *six* died, and only *one* recovered. In the upper cells, *eleven* in number, there were *nine* cases and *six* deaths. In the upper apartments of the back building, other than the cells, there were *eleven* cases, and *eight* deaths. In the low ward of the new house, *four* cases, and *two* deaths; in the upper ward of that house, *two* cases, and *one* death. In the upper floor of the front house, *ten* cases, and *nine* deaths; in the *second* floor of that house, *nine* cases, and *eight* deaths; and the *first* floor up of the same house, *two* cases, and *one* death. So that, in the front building, only *three* recovered out of twenty-one; whereas, of the occupants of low cells, nine recovered out of *eighteen*.

The Board of Health having co-operated with the Commissioners of Police, in extensive measures for the suppression of begging, and preventing the ingress of stranger vagrants and mendicants, the Committee, appointed by the last Quarterly Meeting, did not require to act in the capacity contemplated by the Directors. But, in the other business remitted to them, (the consideration of what gratuity ought to be awarded to the respective District Surgeons, for their extraordinary labours or personal sufferings, consequent on their attendance on cases of Typhus Fever among the poor, during the six months prior to the date of that remit,) the Committee, on the 2d April, proceeded, and after a minute investigation, and due consideration of the subject, it was unanimously resolved, that the sum of ten pounds, each, should be awarded as gratuities to Mr. Watt, Mr. Panton, Mr. Easton, Mr. M'Tear, Mr. Dick, Mr. Connel, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Stirling, the four first named gentlemen having suffered from fever, and the other four having also discharged very laborious duties, with fidelity and efficiency. The Districts, No. 4, 5, 6, and 12, under the charge of Mr. Robertson, Dr. Bryce, Mr. Paterson, and Mr. Johnston, not having occasioned

any personal sufferings, or the same degree of extra labour as attended the duties of the other eight districts, it was agreed, that only *five pounds* should be awarded to each of their Surgeons. The said gratuities not to be understood as conferring any *right* to similar grants on any future occasion.

Under the powers conferred on the Committee, by the *pro re nata* Meeting of the 22d December last, Mr. Renfrew having been appointed temporary assistant to Mr. Watt, during his illness and absence, and Mr. Anderson having been called to the like duties, during the illness of Mr. Panton, it was agreed to award *three guineas* to each of those two gentlemen for their services while employed in their respective districts.

The Medical assistants employed in the Hospital during the prevalence of Cholera, have been paid; but the Committee have thought it most proper to refer to the consideration of the *whole Directors*, what amount should be awarded to Dr Auchencloss, for his arduous duties, at that important period.

After the disease was known to exist within the Hospital, it became necessary for the Weekly Committee to remove their sittings to the Tron Church Session-house—as well to avoid the locality of disease, as to prevent the poor, from infected districts, coming in contact with any of the Hospital inmates. And the large hall, (which the Committee had selected as their place of Meeting, the week before Cholera had appeared within the Hospital,) having become the dormitory of inmates removed from the West Building, or idiot wards, when that building was appropriated to the purposes of a Cholera Hospital, their sittings have hitherto been continued in the Session-house, but as the occupants of the hall are to be forthwith removed to other parts of the Hospital, the Committee purpose to resume sitting at the at the Hospital, on Friday next, the 11th May, current.

By order of the Committee,

DAVID CRAWFORD, Preceptor.

Glasgow, 4th May, 1832.

APPENDIX.

Extract from the MINUTES of the weekly Committee 25th February, 1832. Submitted to the pro re nata meeting of Directors on 28th February, 1832.

WITHIN the Tron Church Session House on Saturday, the 25 February, 1832. Convened the weekly Committee of the Town's Hospital, for the purpose of enquiring into every circumstance connected with the appearance of Cholera within the Hospital. Present Messrs Thomas Stevenson, Alexander Pollock, Robert Stewart, John Ronald, James Bowman, William Barr, Joseph Brown, George Munro, and William Thomson; together with Mr Hill Superintendent, and Dr Auchencloss surgeon of the Hospital.

In consequence of the extent to which Typhus Fever had spread within the City and suburbs, the Committee, on the 2d day of December last, came

to a Resolution that the permission granted to the Hospital Inmates to go out of the Hospital on Sundays and Tuesdays, should be suspended so long as the state of disease within the City and Suburbs might render that restriction necessary, visitors from without (except in cases not involving danger to the inmates) were also for the same time to be excluded. These restrictions have not hitherto been relaxed, and the hospital has still remained free from Typhus fever. But on Wednesday, 22d inst. it was ascertained that a malignant disease, declared to be Cholera, had suddenly appeared among the fatuous and insane portion of the inmates, and up to the present hour twenty-one cases of sudden illness have occurred.

In their endeavours to discover or account for the origin of this afflictive visitation, the Committee have not been able to fix on any particular circumstance as affording direct evidence that it has been communicated by contagion or infection; neither have they any grounds for believing, that its appearance was spontaneous or indigenous, or that it has been generated by any malarious influence within the Hospital; but they have ascertained the following facts.

1. That the restriction imposed on the egress of inmates could not be extended to the persons usually employed in the out-door messages of the Hospital, who are daily and frequently required to be sent out on the business of the House, there being no *hired* male servants in the pay of the Hospital excepting the Keeper of the insane, and the Tailor of the House.

2. That John Brown a robust idiot, and Robert M'Nair an aged fatuous person, were frequently employed with wheel-barrows to carry out the sand swept from the Hospital floors to places of deposit outside the premises, and to bring in *sand stones*, for the use of the Hospital, and that on such errands they have been known to wander from their employment, gratifying curiosity; that the said John Brown, (setting aside the *Ilcus* ease of Allan Macdonald) was the first person affected with Cholera, on the morning of Wednesday 22d, inst; and it is ascertained that he had been out of the Hospital, on his usual errand, on Friday, 10th current, and that Robert M'Nair, who became ill on the morning of the 22d, had been three times out for sand stones on Saturday, 18th inst, though it is not remembered that he wasted any time unnecessarily on that occasion. On Monday following Brown and M'Nair were for sometime employed together, carrying coals on a hand barrow to the upper apartments of the front building, and as they were usually associates in labour they may have been more frequently together. Allan Macdonald (the ease of *Ilcus*) and John Campbell, under treatment for Cholera, with two other persons not affected, slept in the same apartment with John Brown.

3. That the illness of William Scott, and William Henderson, both occupying an apartment adjoining to that of Brown, was nearly, if not altogether, simultaneous with that of Brown.

4. That *seventeen* persons, insane, infirm, or vagrants, or of worthless character, have been received into the Hospital, since 5th January last, under orders from sitting Magistrates at the police office. *Four* of them beggars, admitted on 15th, and *five* vagrant destitute children, (from whence collected unknown) so late as Tuesday last 25th inst, and although such persons were washed and cleaned, on their admission, and placed for a time in rooms apart from other inmates; yet they were not received under any such authority, as would warrant close confinement, and had even such authority existed the accommodation remaining in an establishment, previously overstocked with such characters, was not sufficient for the purposes of proper seclusion and quarantine; consequently they could not be prevented from holding intercourse with other inmates during the day,

5. That the friends of inmates frequently called and held communication with their relatives, at the Hospital door.

6. That persons from infected Houses, or districts, on the plea of business frequently find their way into the counting house, having previously passed through a portion of the Hospital and up a common stair.*

* This has been obviated by running up an outside stair direct to the Counting House.

7. That until Friday, 17th inst. all applicants for relief from the weekly committee were assembled in the lobbies, and passages of the Hospital, until their Petitions could be answered. A situation in which some individuals were obliged to remain for three, four, or five hours, many of such applicants were diseased or from infected houses; and it is known, that at least one female was before the committee on the 17th who died of Cholera (in the Albion street Hospital) on the 19th, inst.

*EXTRACT from the MINUTE of the Quarterly Meeting
of the Directors of the Town's Hospital, held on the 15th
May, 1832.*

The Minutes of the last Quarterly and pro re nata Meetings were read, also a Report presented by the Weekly Committee.

On the motion of the LORD DEAN OF GUILD, it was unanimously resolved—"That the thanks of the Meeting be given to the Committee for the zealous, and able manner, in which they have performed their important duties, and that the Report be printed, and circulated among the Directors."

It was moved by the PRECEPTOR; seconded by ALEXANDER POLLOCK, Esq., and unanimously agreed to—"That this Meeting express their high sense of obligation to WILLIAM THOMSON, Esq., for the very great labour, the talent, and industry, which he has evinced in framing this Report.

